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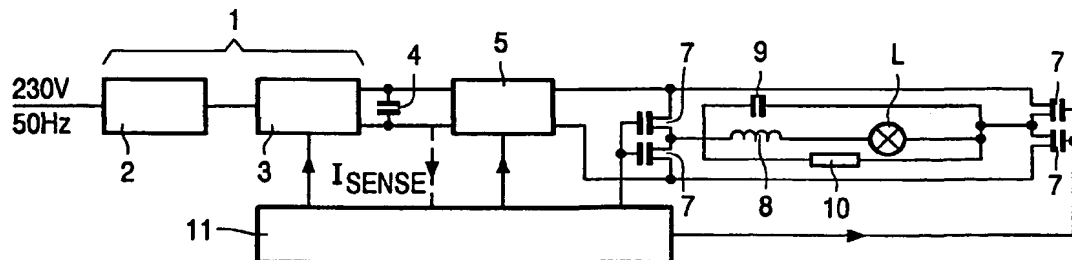
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(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR OPERATING A DISCHARGE LAMP



(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a device for operating a high-pressure discharge lamp, comprising: a switched-mode power supply circuit for supplying power to the high- pressure discharge lamp from a supply voltage, the power supply circuit comprising at least one power switching element, and control means for controlling the at least one power switching element in its switched-on and switched-off states for controlling the power or current supplied to the high-pressure discharge lamp. According to the invention the control means are adapted to control the power consumed by the lamp during its steady phase or the current consumed by the lamp during its run-up phase by controlling the on-time (Ton) of the switched-on state of the at least one power switching element.

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